STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING COORDINATION

June 21, 2024

Michael Henry
University of Delaware, Tower at STAR
100 Discovery Blvd Reception
Newark, DE 19713

RE: PLUS review – 2024-05-05; Pizzadili Partners LLC Rezoning

Dear Mr. Henry:

Thank you for meeting with State agency planners on May 22nd to discuss Pizzadili Partners LLC Rezoning. According to the information received, you are seeking review of a proposed amendment to the Kent County Comprehensive Plan to change the future land-use designation on a portion of the property (approximately 17.9 acres of 35 acres) from Low-Density Residential to Highway Commercial and the associated rezoning from AR (Agricultural Residential) to BG (General Business).

Please note that changes to the plan, other than those suggested in this letter, could result in additional comments from the State. Additionally, these comments reflect only issues that are the responsibility of the agencies represented at the meeting. **The developers will also need to comply with any Federal, State, and local regulations regarding this property. We also note that Kent County is the governing authority over this land, the developers will need to comply with any and all regulations/restrictions set forth by the County.**

Strategies for State Policies and Spending

The proposed partial rezoning from AR to BG can't proceed without the associated comprehensive plan amendment to change the future land-use designation from Low-Density Residential to Highway Commercial. The property is within Kent County's Growth Zone and is adjacent to existing Highway Commercial land uses and BG zoning districts. The property is located in a Level 2 investment area, which is consistent with the 2020 Strategies for State Policies and Spending.

Investment Level 2 reflects areas where growth is anticipated by local, county, and State plans in the near-term future. Because development in Level 2 is consistent with the 2020 Strategies

for State Policies and Spending, the Office of State Planning Coordination has no objections to the proposed comp plan amendment and proposed rezoning.

Code Requirements/Agency Permitting Requirements

Department of Transportation (DelDOT) – Contact Stephen Bayer 302-760-4834

- DelDOT has no comments on the proposed rezoning.
- DelDOT notes that if the parcel is developed in the future all necessary reviews and/or permits will still be required.

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) – Contact Beth Krumrine 302-735-3480

Wetlands and Waterways

According to the application, wetlands have been delineated and non-tidal wetlands exist on the site, estimated to be 1.2 acres.

- Should this parcel be developed in the future and wetlands are impacted, permits from the DNREC Wetlands and Waterways Section may be required.
- Federal permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may also be necessary if dredge or fill is proposed in non-tidal wetlands or streams. Work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine the appropriate permitting requirements if federal permits are required.

Federal Contact: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Dover Office) at (267) 240-5278.
Website: https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Contacts/
State Contact: DNREC Wetlands and Waterways Section at (302) 739-9943.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/water/wetlands/

Stormwater Management

Delaware's Sediment and Stormwater Regulations apply to projects that propose greater than 5,000 square feet of land disturbing activities.

- A Sediment and Stormwater Plan must be developed, then approved by the appropriate plan review agency prior to any land disturbing activity taking place on the site. For this project, the plan review agency is the Kent Conservation District.
- Additionally, to address federal requirements, construction activities that exceed 1.0 acre of land disturbance require Construction General Permit coverage through submittal of an electronic Notice of Intent for Stormwater Discharges Associated with

Construction Activity. This form must be submitted electronically https://enoi.dnrec.delaware.gov/, select Construction Stormwater General Permit) to the DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship, along with the $195 fee.

- Schedule a project application meeting with the appropriate plan review agency prior to moving forward with the stormwater and site design. As part of this process, you must submit a Stormwater Assessment Study.

If this parcel is developed in future, the plan review agency would be:

Kent Conservation District at (302) 608-5370.
Website: http://kentcd.org/

Wastewater Disposal Systems – Large Systems

If the site is developed in the future whereby a public wastewater system becomes necessary, a Wastewater Pollution Collection and Conveyance (WPCC) permit will be required from the Commercial and Government Services section for any construction and operation and the sewer connection from any single family or multi-family dwelling, office building, store or other commercial building which generates more than 2,000 gallons of liquid waste per day.

Contact: DNREC Large Systems Branch at (302) 739-9948.
Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/water/groundwater/

Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) – Contact Milton Melendez 302-698-4500

- No Delaware Department of Agriculture code or regulations apply to this PLUS project.

Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) – Contact Phillip Cane 302-659-2325

Proposed Project Parcel Flood Concern

- This parcel is located within an area of **Minimal Flood Concern of 1,000 years or greater**.

Parcel Status within County Evacuation Zone Location

- The parcel is not yet located within a Kent County Evacuation Zone.

Parcel Status within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) for the Salem Nuclear Power Plant

- The parcel **is not** located within the 10-mile EPZ for the Salem Nuclear Power Plant.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) – Contact Carlton Hall 302-736-7400

- The proposed portion of the parcel to be rezoned includes a tributary of the Hudson Branch. The project area is a mixture of well-drained and poorly drained soils. Areas with well-drained soils, with the proximity to fresh water, are considered favorable conditions for past human occupation and there is high potential for pre-Contact and early historic archaeological sites.

- Historic maps and aerials show an occupation in the project area by 1899 that was demolished by 1954. There is high potential for historic archaeological sites relating to known historic occupation. This office recommends an archaeological survey prior to any ground disturbance due high potential for archaeological sites. If any project or development proceeds, the developer should be aware of the Unmarked Human Burials and Human Skeletal Remains Law (Del. C. Title 7, Ch.54). If there are any questions, inquiries, or concerns, feel free to contact the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office for assistance at 302-736-7400**.**

Delaware State Fire Marshall's Office – Contact Duane Fox 302-739-4394
This document is for information purposes only and does not constitute any type of approval from the Delaware State Fire Marshal's Office.

- This Agency has no objection to the re-zoning request. The information provided below shall be considered when plans are being designed.

At the time of formal submittal, the applicant shall provide; completed application, fee, and three sets of plans depicting the following in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulation (DSFPR):

Fire Protection Water Requirements:

- Water distribution system capable of delivering at least 1,500 gpm for 2-hour duration, at 20-psi residual pressure is required. Fire hydrants with 800 feet spacing on centers. (Mercantile)

- Water distribution system capable of delivering at least 1,000 gpm for 1-hour duration, at 20-psi residual pressure is required. Fire hydrants with 800 feet spacing on centers. (Assembly and Townhouses)

- Where a water distribution system is proposed for the site, the infrastructure for fire protection water shall be provided, including the size of water mains for fire hydrants and sprinkler systems.

Fire Protection Features:

- All structures over 10,000 square feet aggregate will require automatic sprinkler protection installed.
- Buildings greater than 10,000 square feet, 3-stories or more, over 35 feet, or classified as High Hazard, are required to meet fire lane marking requirements.
- Show Fire Department Connection location (Must be within 300 feet of fire hydrant), and detail as shown in the DSFPR.
- Show Fire Lanes and Sign Detail as shown in DSFPR.

Accessibility

- All premises, which the fire department may be called upon to protect in case of fire, and which are not readily accessible from public roads, shall be provided with suitable gates and access roads, and fire lanes so that all buildings on the premises are accessible to fire apparatus. This means that the access road to the subdivision from Turkey Point Road must be constructed so fire department apparatus may negotiate it.
- Fire department access shall be provided in such a manner so that fire apparatus will be able to locate within 100 ft. of the front door. Streets designed without parking need to develop a plan for enforcement once HOA takes charge. Fire apparatus still need to negotiate the streets.
- Any dead-end road more than 300 feet in length shall be provided with a turn-around or cul-de-sac arranged such that fire apparatus will be able to turn around by making not more than one backing maneuver. The minimum paved radius of the cul-de-sac shall be 38 feet. The dimensions of the cul-de-sac or turn-around shall be shown on the final plans. Also, please be advised that parking is prohibited in the cul-de-sac or turn around.
- The use of speed bumps or other methods of traffic speed reduction must be in accordance with Department of Transportation requirements.
- The use of open bridge or covered bridge shall be designed to DelDOT standards and accessible by all fire department apparatus.
- The local Fire Chief, prior to any submission to our Agency, shall approve in writing the use of gates that limit fire department access into and out of the development or property.

Gas Piping and System Information:

- Provide type of fuel proposed and show locations of bulk containers on plan.

Required Notes:

- Provide a note on the final plans submitted for review to read "All fire lanes, fire hydrants, and fire department connections shall be marked in accordance with the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations."
- Proposed Use
- Alpha or Numerical Labels for each building/unit for sites with multiple buildings/units
- Square footage of each structure (Total of all Floors)
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Construction Type
- Maximum Height of Buildings (including number of stories)
- Note indicating if building(s) is/are to be sprinklered
- Name of Water Provider
- Letter from Water Provider approving the system layout
- Provide Lock Box Note (as detailed in DSFPR) if Building is to be sprinklered
- Provide Road Names, even for County Roads

Preliminary meetings with Fire Protection Specialists are encouraged prior to formal submittal. Please call for appointment. Applications and brochures can be downloaded from our website: www.statefiremarshal.delaware.gov, technical services link, plan review, applications or brochures.

Recommendations/Additional Information

This section includes a list of site-specific suggestions that are intended to enhance the project. These suggestions have been generated by the State Agencies based on their expertise and subject area knowledge. **These suggestions do not represent State code requirements.** They are offered here in order to provide proactive ideas to help the applicant enhance the site design, and it is hoped **(but in no way required)** that the applicant will open a dialogue with the relevant agencies to discuss how these suggestions can benefit the project.

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) – Contact Beth Krumrine 302-735-3480

Removal of Mature Forest

Mature forest exists on-site. An analysis of historical data indicates that the forest covering the central and northern area of the site has likely maintained some degree of forest cover since 1937 and could be considered mature forest. Mature forests possess the potential for rare, threatened, or endangered species that rely on this type of habitat. Forests filter water for improved water quality, provide habitat for wildlife, absorb nutrients, infiltrate stormwater, moderate temperatures, and store atmospheric carbon which would otherwise contribute to climate change.

Should this parcel be developed in the future and mature forests are impacted, please consider the following recommendations.

- Removing forested areas for development, especially mature forests, should be avoided to the greatest extent possible.

- In general, contiguous forest and connected areas of natural habitat are more beneficial to wildlife, allowing for safer movement from one area to another while reducing roadway mortality.

- A forest assessment should be conducted to determine if mature forest resources exist on the property and to delineate their boundaries. Additionally, a forest assessment would include the identification of specimen trees and forest-dependent wildlife. If mature forests are found, these areas should be conserved to the maximum extent practicable.

- To reduce impacts to nesting birds and other wildlife species that utilize forests for breeding, it is recommended that tree clearing not occur from April 1st to July 31st. Likewise, avoid mowing open space areas and grass filter strips during the same timeframe, as various species of birds utilize these areas for nesting sites.

Contact: DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife, Species Conservation and Research Program at (302) 735-3600. Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/contact-information/

Wetlands

Maps from the Statewide Wetlands Mapping Project indicate the potential presence of forested wetlands crossing through the middle of the site and essentially dividing the parcel in two halves. Forested wetlands are known to support an array of plants and animals, most notably wetland dependent species, such as amphibians.

- If developed in the future, maintain an upland buffer of at least 100 feet along all wetlands and waterways.

- Design the development to exclude curbs. If road curbing is part of the design, select curbing that allows small animals, such as turtles and salamanders, to climb out of the roadbed (Type 2 or Cape Cod curbing).

- Use wide, open bottom box culverts to allow for passage of amphibians.

- Maintain habitat connections to undeveloped open space, which are especially important for species movement across the landscape.

Contact: DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife, Species Conservation and Research Program at (302) 735-3600. Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/fish-wildlife/conservation/

Brownfields

The area that the applicant is proposing for subdivision and commercial rezoning is adjacent to and shares a property boundary to the east with a state funded brownfields project (site ID DE-1666, Former Pit Stop Deli). On the site plan, the parcel with the Brownfields project is labeled "Lands of Felton Drive-In LLC."

In Delaware, a brownfield is defined as "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be hindered by the reasonably held belief that the real property may be environmentally contaminated."

- If developed in the future, please contact the DNREC Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances regarding any impacts that may associated with the adjacent Brownfields Site.

Contact: Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances Remediation Section at (302) 395-2600. Website: https://dnrec.delaware.gov/waste-hazardous/remediation/

Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) – Contact Phillip Cane 302-659-2325

Population

- The county has a population density of 310.20 persons per square mile based on the US 2020 Census report; an increase from 2010 at 271.30 persons per square mile. The specific census block(s) the project is located on has a total population of 128 persons, though, with development, this will undoubtedly change. The 14 adjacent blocks aggregated bring the area to a total population of 432 persons.

FEMA National Risk Index

- The FEMA National Risk Index is an online mapping application that identifies communities most at risk to 18 natural hazards: Avalanche, Coastal Flooding, Cold Wave, Drought, Earthquake, Hail, Heat Wave, Hurricane, Ice Storm, Landslide, Lightning, Riverine Flooding, Strong Wind, Tornado, Tsunami, Volcanic Activity, Wildfire, and Winter Weather. The FEMA National Risk Index is calculated by multiplying the Expected Annual Loss times the Social Vulnerability and dividing that by the Community Resilience.



- According to FEMA's National Risk Index, the parcel **is** considered **relatively low** for overall natural hazards risks.

- Community Resilience is a consequence reduction risk component and a community risk factor that represents the ability of a community to prepare for anticipated natural hazards, adapt to changing conditions and withstand/recover rapidly from disruptions. Social Vulnerability is a consequence-enhancing risk factor that represents the susceptibility of social groups to the adverse impacts of natural hazards.

- Its community resilience is rated as **relatively high**, whereas its social vulnerability is rated as **relatively moderate.**

Renewable Energy Commitment

- Regarding energy use and consumption, the census tract utilizes **electricity** as the predominant fuel type for heating purposes.

- DEMA strongly encourages the use of renewable energies and high-efficiency appliances and utilities. Regarding utilities, DEMA suggests incorporating 90% series furnaces/HVAC systems; the closer to 99%, the better, as well as A/C units of 20 Seer or greater. DEMA recommends using tankless water heaters, and battery backup systems for sump pumps to reduce potential water damage from power failure. Lastly, DEMA encourages the integration of modern and emerging technologies, such as the potential for electric vehicles in garages/parking lots, green roofs, or solar panels where applicable and allowable, and the like.

Following receipt of this letter and upon filing of an application with the local jurisdiction, the applicant shall provide to the local jurisdiction and the Office of State Planning Coordination a written response to comments received as a result of the pre-application process, noting whether comments were incorporated into the project design or not and the reason, therefore.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 302-739-3090.

Sincerely,



David L. Edgell, AICP
Director, Office of State Planning Coordination